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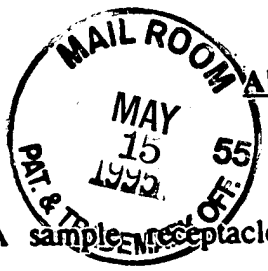

Abstract of the Invention

A sample receptacle for retaining a sample that is to be subjected to spectrochemical analysis. The sample receptacle includes a tubular body having at least one open end and a tapered exterior wall. A sheet of thin film material having peripheral edges is disposed across the open end of the tubular body. A generally annular collar, having an interior wall tapered at an angle supplemental to the taper of the interior wall, is disposed around the tubular body. As the annular collar is placed around the tubular body, the tapered exterior wall of the tubular body creates an interference fit with the tapered interior wall of the annular collar. The tapered surfaces of the tubular body and the annular collar engage the sheet of thin film material and pull the sheet of thin film material taut over the open end of the tubular body. The annular collar is sized to engage the entire length of the exterior wall of the tubular body. The portions of thin film material not covering the open end of the tubular body, including the peripheral edges of the thin film material are compressed between the tapered exterior wall of the tubular body and the tapered inside wall of the annular collar. As such, the sample receptacle can be handled without having to trim extraneous thin film material from the sides of the tubular body.